

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4135

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OEXC UR
SUBJ: "TECHNOLOGY FOR THE AMERICAN HOME" EXHIBIT: COMPLAINT FROM
CHAMBER OFFICIAL

1. RECENT EXPERIENCE "TECHNOLOGY FOR THE AMERICAN HOME"(TAH) EXHIBIT
STAFFER WITH OFFICIAL OF USSR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
IN MOSCOW OFFERS INTERESING INSIGHTS AND SIDELIGHTS TO INCIDENTS IN
TASHKENT INVOLVING TAG GUIDE NAVARA HOLMES.

2. WHEN DECISION MADE HOLMES TO RETURN US, TAH MOSCOW-BASED ADMIN
ASSISTANT MADE URGENT REQUEST THROUGH CHAMBER PROTOCOL CHIEF BRAZHNIKOV

FOR HOLMES' EXIT VISA, CITING IN LETTER OF REQUEST "FAMILY EMERGENCY
NECESSITATING HIS IMMEDIATE PRESENCE AT HOME." THIS WORKDING AGREED
UPON WITHIN EMBASSY AS MOST DESIRABLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. AS HAS

BEEN HIS PRACTICE IN RESPONSE TO EMERGENCY REQUESTS FROM EXHIBIT,
BRAZHNIKOV GAVE MATTER PRIORITY ATTENTION AND OBTAINED VISA WITHIN 24
HOURS. IF ALLOWED FOLLW NORMAL COURSE SUCH VISA APPLICATIONS TAKE
FROM 3 TO 5 DAYS TO PROCESS.

3. MARCH 24, BRAZHNIKOV REQUESTED TAH OFFICER TO COME TO HIS
OFFICE. DURING THEIR MEETING, WITHOUT EVER ALLUDING DIRECTLY
TO HOLMES AFFAIR, CHAMBER OFFICIAL SPOKE OF "BOND OF TRUST" THAT
HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED OVER THE NEARLY TWO YEARS THEY HAD WORKED
TOGETHER. "ONCE THOSE BONDS BROKEN," HE CONTINUED, THEY OBLIGED
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TO CONDUCT BUSINESS "STRICTLY ACCORDING TO REGULATIONS." WHERE-

UPON HE RETURNED PASSPORTS OF TWO SENIOR TAH STAFF MEMBERS, REJECTING THEIR APPLICATIONS FOR EXIT VISAS ON MINOR TECHNICALITIES, INCLUDING ONE ERROR OF OMISSION HE HAD SPECIFICALLY IGNORED ON AN EARLIER TAH EXIT VISA APPLICATION.

4. TIMING OF INCIDENT, SO SHORTLY AFTER SUBMISSION BY EMBASSY OF PROTEST NOTE ON MARCH 21, SUGGESTS THIS OFFICIAL, AT LEAST, PREVIOUSLY UNAWARE OF GOINGS ON IN TASHKENT. SINCE BRAZHNIKOV IS HIGH-RANKING CHAMBER OFFICIAL IN KEY POSITION REGARDING CONTACT WITH FOREIGNERS, HIS APPARENT LACK OF KNOWLEDGE MIGHT ALSO BE FAIRLY TAKEN TO IMPLY A GENERAL STATE OF IGNORANCE ABOUT THE AFFAIR ON PART OF CHAMBER OFFICIALS IN MOSCOW. IT POSSIBLE OF COURSE, HE DISSEMBLING FROM START TO FINISH.

5. FACT THAT THIS OFFICIAL HAS ADOPTED COOL POSTURE MAY ONLY SIGNIFY HIS OWN PIQUE OVER BEING DECEIVED, PERHAPS COMPOUNDED BY HEAT FROM OTHER QUARTERS OVER HIS TOO-HELPFUL ATTITUDE ON THIS SENSITIVE CASE. ALSO POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT HIS REACTION MAY BE PART OF GENERAL CHAMBER RESPONSE TO EMBASSY PROTEST NOTE. IF SO, NO OTHER SIGNS HAVE SURFACED TODATE; IN TASHKENT, TAKE-DOWN HAS PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY WITH NOR REPORTS OF LACK OF CHAMBER COOPERATION. WIL ADVISE.
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